

**REMARKS:**

Claims 1, 6, 8-19, 22-26, 28, 30-41, 43, 44 and 46 are presented for consideration.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability for all of the claims if certain formal deficiencies are addressed.

In reply to the Examiner's reject of claims 1 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to cancel the redundant "WC/C" since the claims include "Me/C" wherein Me can be W and thus already included the WC/C "carbon-containing slide layer."

Claims 6 and 8 have also been amended to better clarify their meaning.

In claim 6, which is support in the specification at page 6, lines 1 to 4, for example, the carbon-containing slide layer is characterized more fully.

Claim 8, which adds at least one hard layer to the workpiece, is support at page 5, line 20 to 24 of the specification for example, and has been amended to avoid confusion.

The first paragraph of the specification has also been amended to avoid reference to particular claims to improve its form.

Accordingly the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and further favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Peter C. Michalos/  
Reg. No. 28,643  
Attorney for Applicants  
Phone: (845) 359-7700

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**NOTARO & MICHALOS P.C.  
100 Dutch Hill Road  
Suite 110  
Orangeburg, New York 10962-2100**

**Customer No. 21706**

PCM:pae